



October
2020

West Des Moines eNewsletter

The Jamie Hurd Amphitheater is now open!

On a beautiful evening, the City of West Des Moines held a dedication ceremony to mark the opening of the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater, located by the pond on the City/School campus.

The new \$2.4 million venue was funded through donations from the Microsoft Corporation, the Richard and Linda Hurd family and funds from the Local Option Sales and Services Tax. The City granted Richard and Linda Hurd naming rights to the facility, which honors their daughter, Jamie Hurd, who passed away in 2009.

Mayor Gaer told WHO-TV 13 that “it’s exciting for us as a city, especially in light of the whole COVID-19 situation, that as a government, we are still out building quality of life projects to make available for the citizens, visitors and businesses that are here,” he said.

The amphitheater is the second element to be completed of the City’s Five Waters Project. The first, the Racoon River Boathouse, opened to the public in

July and ended its first season on Labor Day.

The Jamie Hurd Amphitheater is available to host a wide variety of community events, including concerts, outdoor movies, festivals and theatrical performances. With a stage built to accommodate up to 50 musicians and lawn seating for up to 2,000, it’s perfect for events of all sizes.

The WDM Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for managing and programming the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater.

For more information about renting the facility, call 222-3444 or email parkrec@wdm.iowa.gov.



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Deputy City Manager receives Iowa League of Cities award



West Des Moines Deputy City Manager Jamie Letzring (center) poses with her award along with Mickey Shields, Membership Services Director for the Iowa League of Cities (left) and City Manager Tom Hadden (right).

Deputy City Manager Jamie Letzring was recently awarded the Iowa League of Cities “Rhonda Wood Smith Award,” which was created to recognize the outstanding work of young city officials and those new to city government.

The award was named for Rhonda Wood Smith, a single parent who served as mayor of Garner while working as a municipal consultant. Rhonda passed away from cancer in 1997 after establishing a reputation as a civic-minded individual deeply committed to her community.

Letzring was recognized for a number of achievements, including her work to bring high-speed

internet choices to all residents and businesses in West Des Moines. Last July, Mayor Steve Gaer announced that the City will build an “open access” conduit network and license space to broadband providers. Google Fiber will be the first licensee in the system.

Letzring was hired by the City of West Des Moines as Deputy City Manager in March of 2016. She previously served for three years as city administrator for Oelwein, Iowa. She also served for four years as city administrator and economic development director in Sherburn, Minnesota.



Construction Updates



If you would like to learn more about Engineering and Parks and Recreation projects under construction, just visit our [website](#). You can also view drone footage of construction projects by [visiting Engineering Services YouTube Channel!](#)

Attention all little ghosts and goblins



Beggars' Night in West Des Moines will be held on Friday, October 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.
Keep an eye on our website for updates and safety tips from the IDPH & CDC.

Library kiosk now available in Valley Junction

The West Des Moines Public Library has installed a 24-hour self-service kiosk at the Valley Junction Activity Center at 217 Fifth Street. The machine is located outside the building next to the Fourth Street/rear entrance, near the awning.

"It's well-lit and easy to spot," says Library Director Darryl Eschete. "It has a big viewing window and glowing touch screens that make it look like a giant vending machine, which is basically what it is."

Users must have a West Des Moines Public Library card in good standing to check out one of the 235 carefully selected books and DVDs that will be offered in the kiosk, and a limit of ten items per cardholder can be checked out.

Library cards are free, but to get one, it is necessary to visit the main library at 4000 Mills Civic Parkway and fill out a form (and show proof of identification and residence).

In addition to checking out, patrons will also be able to renew and return library materials at the kiosk, whether they were borrowed from the machine or not. There will be size limitations on items because of the dimensions of the return

slot, but most library items will fit.

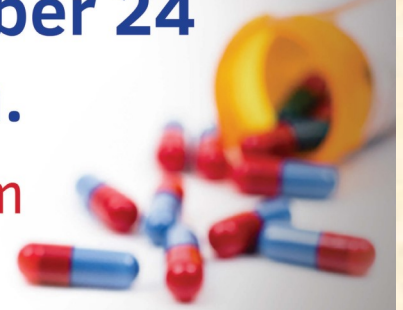
The kiosk, the first of its kind in Iowa, was purchased with a generous gift of over \$100,000 from the West Des Moines Public Library Friends Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises money to support the library's

services and programs.

"The West Des Moines Library Friends Foundation is proud to have provided financial support for the purchase of the kiosk," says Dan Werner, a past president of the organization. [Watch Library Director Darryl Eschete's video on the library's Facebook page and learn how to use the kiosk!](#)



Saturday, October 24
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
DEATakeBack.com



**Keep your family safe by taking unused or expired prescription drugs to the
WDM Police Department at 250 Mills Civic Parkway!**

LIHEAP offers assistance for heating costs

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal program established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs. This is a one-time credit that households can reapply for each year.

If you live in western Polk County and are interested in applying for LIHEAP, please contact West Des Moines Human Services at 222-3660 to apply.

Applications are accepted November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021. If a household member is disabled or 60 years or older, applications can be submitted beginning October 1, 2020.

You will be told at the time of your application whether you are eligible and if so, for what amount you qualify.

Dallas County residents, please call New Opportunities at (515) 465-5185 to apply.

Required documents include:

- 1) Proof of income for all household members. This would include documentation of gross earned wages, self-employment, Social Security/SSI, child support, pension/retirement funds, dividend earnings, gross unemployment, FIP, etc. for 30 days preceding the date of application, or the most recent calendar year Federal Income Tax Return.
- 2) Documentation of social security numbers for all household members.
- 3) Copy of your most recent heating/electric bill.

This year, West Des Moines Human Services will be offering a limited number of programs for holiday assistance to qualifying West Des Moines residents. Online registration begins on October 5.

Income guidelines and deadlines apply. To learn more, call (515) 222-3660 or visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/HolidayAssistance.

Holiday Giving Opportunities

Bring joy to someone's life this holiday season by helping a family in need through the West Des Moines Human Services **Holiday Assistance Program**. West Des Moines Human Services provides necessary assistance to low-income, elderly and disabled individuals in West Des Moines. Many of these households are surviving on very limited incomes and struggle to afford even the most basic necessities. Some are faced with hardships that make it difficult to feel the joy of the holiday season.

YOU can make a difference! Please consider providing assistance in any of the following ways:

- **ADOPT-A-FAMILY** for the holidays by providing gifts for the children in the household and delivering directly to the family.
- Make a **MONETARY DONATION** to assist the department in helping those in need during the holiday season and throughout the year.
- Provide a **GROCERY** gift card to assist a low-income family.

To learn more, contact Mindy Hotovec at 222-3663 or Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov, or visit www.wdm.iowa.gov/HolidayGivingOpportunities.



"Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen" is this year's theme for Fire Prevention Week, which takes place from October 4-10, 2020!

The focus on cooking fire safety comes in response to **home cooking fires being the leading cause of U.S. home fires**, with nearly half (49 percent) of all home fires involving cooking equipment.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires.

This year's focus on cooking safety is particularly timely as many people and families are opting to do more cooking and entertaining at home, thus the potential for home cooking fires may increase.

Key messages around this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign include:

- Keep a close eye on what you're cooking; never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — at least 3 feet away from your stovetop.
- Be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stovetop.

For more fire safety information, contact the West Des Moines Fire Department.

Due to safety concerns, the October
Open House & Pancake Breakfast
and the Memorial for firefighters
have been **cancelled**.

*We look forward to seeing
everyone next year!*



2020 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

Nov. 28	Yard Waste Pickup Ends
Dec. 28, 2020 — Jan. 8, 2021	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

Yard Waste events are available to all WDM residents eligible for solid waste collection.

For more information, visit www.wdm.iowa.gov or call WDM Public Services at 222-3480.

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION Season Ends Nov. 28

Compost It! curbside yard waste collection will end for the season on November 28, 2020. The program accepts small twigs and branches, leaves and lawn clippings, as well as any garden vegetation. Just avoid dirt, mulch, rocks, and food.



WINTER YARD WASTE COLLECTION Dec. 28, 2020 - Jan. 8, 2021

Winter Compost It! collection is an opportunity to dispose of live Christmas trees, and any remaining yard waste. Collection will occur December 28, 2020 - January 8, 2021. Please make sure all decorations are removed.




Metro Waste Authority
515.244.0021
www.WherItShouldGo.com

Winter is on its way so Plan for the Ban!



If you normally park on:

- * City Streets & Alleys or City-owned parking lots

**MAKE A PLAN
NOW!**

The cool, crisp fall air signals even colder weather just around the corner – winter is coming! NOW is the time to plan for when a snow parking ban is in effect during a winter weather event. Help our snowplow drivers safely clear the streets and avoid receiving a ticket or tow by making a *Plan for the Ban!*

Don't let your stormwater drain get clogged with leaves!

*Don't let
this
happen
on YOUR
street!*



City Code 4-4-2:C prohibits depositing leaves, mud, dirt, gravel, snow or other debris in the public right of way.

It is hard to believe Fall is here already! Along with the beautiful colors our trees provide during this season comes the not-so-fun task of blowing or raking up all those fallen leaves. While blowing or raking leaves into the streets might get them out of your yard, they often end up in a stormwater drain where they clog pipes, which results in street flooding.

In extreme cases, water can back up into homes. Instead of blowing leaves into the street where they can obstruct stormwater drains and clog street sweepers, you have a variety of other options:

- ◆ Composting or recycling.
- ◆ Blow leaves underneath nearby garden shrubs – this creates useful mulch that improves the soil.
- ◆ Blow the leaves onto the lawn before you mow. As you mow, the mower will vacuum up the leaves. When you mix dry leaves with the grass clippings, you get a wonderful compost mixture.
- ◆ Rake leaves into flower beds. A 4-6 inch layer of mulch protects plants from winter cold. Some flowers that normally don't overwinter well can be kept in the ground with heavy mulching.



Utilize a mulching mower which cuts grass clippings and leaves (until they're very small) and returns them back to the soil.

Regardless of where the leaves come from, property owners are responsible for maintaining their yards and the areas adjacent to City right-of-way, including sidewalks. Everyone appreciates a good neighbor who keeps up with the fast-falling leaves during the fall season.